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THE GAZETTE • montrealgazette.com • THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2008

PETE MENA

Trevor Anderson and the High Dials launch their new album in Montreal on Sept. 18, then embark on a month-long tour.

WHAT'S ON YOUR IPOD?

TREVOR ANDERSON

Trevor Anderson, guitarist and songwriter for the High Dials, is busy getting ready for next week's launch of the group's new album, Moon Country, at Cabaret Juste Pour Rire. Here's what he's listening to during his infrequent down time.

1. I Can't Seem Make To Make You Mine The Clientele
2. Free Man Awesome Color
3. Nobody Loves You When You're Down and Out John Lennon
4. Michael Caine Madness
5. Just Let Go The Seeds
6. World of Pauline Lewis Television Personalities
7. Avalanche Leonard Cohen
8. If I Were A Carpenter The Four Tops
9. Livin' Thing Electric Light Orchestra
10. Someone's Got To Love You House of Love

(The High Dials perform Sept. 18 at 9 p.m. at Cabaret Juste Pour Rire. Tickets cost $10 at the door.)

TOP TEN LIST

THIS WEEK'S iTUNES CANADA TOP 10

(as of Wednesday, Sept. 10)

1. **Coldplay** Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends (Parlophone/EMI)
2. **Jessica Simpson** Do You Know (Sony BMG)
3. **Kardinal Offishall** Not 4 Sale (Kon Live/Geffen/Universal)
4. **Andrew F** Reckless Abandon (Independent)
5. **Michael Franti & Spearhead** All Rebel Rockers — Bonus Track Version (Boo Boo Wax/Anti-)
6. **Rihanna** Good Girl Gone Bad — Reloaded (Island Def Jam/Universal)
7. **Lady Gaga** The Fame (Interscope/Universal)
8. **MGMT** Oracular Spectacular (Sony BMG)
9. **Various Artists** Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog (Soundtrack From the Motion Picture)
10. **Chad VanGaalen** Soft Airplane (Flemish Eye)

HOT YOUNG SINGLES

DJ Champion: I Put a Spell On You. Elements of the blues, Gospel, soul, surf and house music are combined as Montreal party maestro Champion and chanteuse Betty Bonifassi give Screamin' Jay Hawkins a diva-esque dance floor makeover. **Available at:** iTunes.

T'CHA DUNLEVY

Karkwa: Oubliе pas. It's not just on the angle side of things that Montreal's indie scene is rocking. There's a gentle confidence to this expansive ballad by one of our franco scene's hottest acts. **Available for free this week at:** iTunes.

TD

Chiwoniso: Listen to the Breeze. This South African-flavoured beauty from Zimbabwean singer and mbira player Chiwoniso is as gentle and refreshing as its title. And you've gotta love the horn section that playfully pushes the melody along. **Available on:** Rebel Woman.

Chiwoniso performs tomorrow at Kola Note. Tickets cost $25. Phone 514-790-1245 or go to www.admission.com)

BERNARD PERUSSE

montrealgazette.com/artslife

NEW RELEASES Read a selective list of the new music coming out Tuesday.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Sometimes we'd play real late – and sometimes we'd just make a bonfire, drink beer and look at the stars."

– SINGER-SONGWRITER CONOR OBERST (OF BRIGHT EYES) ON THE MAKING OF HIS NEW SELF-TITLED SOLO ALBUM, RECORDED IN MEXICO

ALBUM REVIEW

Thrash icons win back their cred

Metallica

Death Magnetic
Elektra/WEA
★★★★ out of 5

MARK LEPAGE
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

WARNER MUSIC CANADA

Metallica's Death Magnetic is a reaction to its much-loathed St. Anger and its huggy-feeliness.

The other day, I watched an online video of Van Halen playing Panama in last year's reunion tour, and read the attendant comments from the cybergallery. They were mean. And not about Dave – about Eddie. He had "lost it," his "chops are gone." Yet there Eddie was, doing things few other guitarist can do.

So imagine what Metallica is in for. When you set the bar for speed, precision and ferocity, get set to be welcomed back with the curious mix of devotion and savagery known as fandom. With And Justice For All, you were competing with wimpdom. Now you are competing with yourself, or whoever you used to be.

I've got an idea: hire Rick Rubin, howlocity genius, to produce. Dig deep for a concept that scans well – death as attraction and repulsion, but always fixation. And then let's go to the clock.

The easiest thing is to count Death Magnetic songs under seven minutes. There are three of them. This has significance in Metallicaland. In unscientific terms, it would tend to indicate Metallica is back. And they are.

That Was Just Your Life opens in epic old-school form. The End of the Line almost sounds like Pearl Jam for a second before it snaps out of it. It is assaultive, but somehow colourless. Then they get serious.

Broken, Beat & Scarred, with its twin refrains of What don't kill ya make ya more strong and We die hard! is an anthem. It will be huge, and justly so. The Day That Never Comes fuses Unforgiven with One and, weirdly, a shot of Deep Purple; it's a meaty ballad that, of course, detonates. All Nightmare Long is snakey, like an inversion of Enter Sandman, and buries the album's best chorus in all the suite-bits – for metal-cred's sake. Kirk Hammett whips off another in a series of vicious solos. Cyanide benefits from new bassist Robert Trujillo's elasticity.

Metallica is the meeting of extreme and mainstream. Death Magnetic is a reaction to the much-loathed St. Anger and its attendant psychodramas and huggy-feeliness. After multiple listenings, this has broad variety – think of the intro to The Day That Never Comes, and The End of the Line. They're covering the career, and winning redemption.

The purists will still point and laugh at Lars Ulrich's snare sound – and Lars deserves it, in broad terms – but where else will metalheads go for this goliath breed of credible ferocity and major-league sophistication?

Can thrash metal get older? Well, Lemmy already did. And you know there are still fans when some kid is uploading guitar-lesson videos to Youtube for an album that hasn't been released yet. In sheer riff tonnage, it will have no competition. And yes, I know somewhere in the Norwegian woods, there's a band of 16-year-old church-burning warlocks who are heavier, faster, evilier. Have fun with that.

Podworthy: The Day That Never Comes

Death Magnetic is in stores tomorrow.

For more CD reviews, read Saturday's Culture section and go to www.montrealgazette.com/artslife.

FRANCOPHONE MUSIC JUAN RODRIGUEZ

Boulay leads ADISQ nominations

QUEBEC MUSIC

Awards gala will be broadcast from Bell Centre

JUAN RODRIGUEZ
THE GAZETTE

GAZETTE FILE PHOTO

Isabelle Boulay is up for best pop album and five other awards.

COURTESY OF FRANCOFOLIES

Karkwa's third album Le volume du vent is nominated in four categories: alternative album, songwriting, group and video.

The immediate past and the imminent present dovetail nicely around this time of year on the Quebec music scene: On the one hand, there was last night's announcement of nominees for the ADISQ awards gala; on the other, there are launchings of new albums and shows known collectively as "la rentrée" (as in back-to-school).

For the first time, the gala – organized by the Association québécoise de l'industrie du disque, du spectacle et de la vidéo, the provincial music industry trade association – will be broadcast from the Bell Centre (Sunday Nov. 2, on Radio-Canada), a sure sign that the ceremony has become a major annual entertainment fixture in the province. A dozen artists' awards will be presented there, with the rest reserved for L'Autre Gala, at Metropolis on Oct. 27. On the same day, the behind-the-scenes industry awards will be presented at Club Soda.

While no artist dominates the nominee list, it was another great year for the elegant strong-voiced chanteuse Isabelle Boulay, who snared six nominations, including pop album and best-selling album (for Nos lendemains).

This is a breakthrough year for Karkwa – the progressive rock group whose splendidly produced third album Le volume du vent kicked in with four nominations (alternative album, songwriting, group and video) – and Alfa Rococo, the duo whose debut Lever l'ancre yielded the impossibly catchy hit of the same name.

While it was no surprise that Gatineau's eponymous debut album was nominated in the hip-hop category, the group was chosen as one of the discoveries of the year, a boost for a musical genre that came late to Quebecois music. And some artists never go away: Michel Louvin's 50 ans d'amour was nominated in the best concert by an interpreter category.

Among the nominees for traditional album, it was heartwarming to see the collaboration between seminal '60s chansonnier Gilles Vigneault and Les Charbonniers de l'enfer with La sacrée rencontre.

Songwriting is represented by veterans Diane Dufresne and Urbain Dubois and relative newcomers Karkwa, El Motor and Catherine Major.

In the classical album category a battle of the titans is shaping up between Kent Nagano's Montreal Symphony Orchestra (Beethoven: L'idéal de la revolution française) and Yannick Nezet-Seguin's Orchestre Metropolitain du Grand Montreal (La Mer).

The non-stop global touring by exuberant rockers Malajube paid off with a nod for category representing best-known Québécois artists outside Quebec (vying with Boulay, Simple Plan, Patrick Watson and Jamil).

Three categories will be decided by popular vote. The song of the year is a contest between Alfa Rococo, Boulay, Nicola Ciccone, Arik-Jean, Éric Lapointe, Marie-Mai, Ariane Moffatt, Jonathan Painchaud, Vincent Vallières and Andrée Watters. The female singer category is between Boulay, Moffatt, Marie-Mai, Laurence Jalbert and Marie-Élaine Thibert, while the male singers are led by Charles, Ciccone, Daniel Bélanger, Pierre Lapointe and Vincent Vallières.

It's Kent Nagano and Yannick Nezet-Seguin in a battle of the titans.

The best-selling album category is divided between Claude Dubois, Boulay, Marie-Mai, Kain and François Pérusse.

An interesting development is that among the nominees for best English album are three by francophone artists: '70s by Sylvain Cossette, Fanglees Wolf Facing Winter by Kevin Parent, and Piece of My Soul by Garou. Evidently industry nabobs have gotten over the "traitor" aroma for singing in the other official language that plagued Québécois artists (starting with Céline Dion) just a few years ago.

Meanwhile, back to the future: Included among new albums we are looking forward to this fall are two by Les Cowboys Fringants – L'Expédition (Sept. 23) and Sur un air de déjà vu (released the same day on iTunes and on CD in mid-October). Other must-listens include Jean Leloup (as yet untitled, set for end of October), Thomas Hellman (Oct. 21), Aimée Gratton (Nov. 11), Claude Gauthier's Pour la suite du monde (mid-October), Nanette Workman (mid-November) and Michel Rivard's collaboration with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra (end of November).

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